

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-02 PRS-01 L-03

SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01

PA-03 PPT-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /075 W

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O R 121020 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2113

INFO / AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 024

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 800

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SALTZMAN AND JUNGMAN)

REF: SANAA 757, 778, 783

1. DEP PRIMIN/ FONMIN NU' MAN AND I SAW PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI IN TAIZ MAY 10 TO DISCUSS SALTZMAN/ JUNGMAN CASE. NU' MAN BRIEFED PRESIDENT ON RESULTS OF YARG INTERROGATION TO DATE. THIS TENDED SUBSTANTIATE THE THESIS THAT SALTZMAN/ JUNGMAN HAD BEHAVED VERY FOOLISHLY AND HAD CONTRAVENED YAR LAWS BUT IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THEY HAD BEEN WORKING PROFESSIONALLY FOR ISRAEL.

2. I SAID WE HAD BEEN GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF SALTZMAN/ JUNGMAN DETENTION, AND CONSULAR ACCESS. WE NOT SEEKING PREJUDGE RESULTS OF YARG INQUIRY BUT WE WOULD URGE IT BE CONCLUDED EXPEDITIOUSLY IN ORDER THAT LACK OF RESOLUTION NOT SPILL OVER TO CONTAMINATE OTHER ASPECTS OF US- YAR RELATIONSHIP WHICH OTHERWISE EVOLVING SO SATISFACTORILY. FOR ITS SIDE, YARG WOULD HAVE MORE OF A PROBLEM IF THIS STORY GOT INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. ON US SIDE, CASES LIKE THESE HAD A WAY OF ESCALATING THROUGH PARENTAL TO CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN.

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3. PRESIDENT AL- IRYANI AGREED ON NEED FOR YARG TO REACH DECISION QUICKLY. RADIO BAGHDAD, IN PARTICULAR, SEEMED TO HAVE WELL PLACED INFORMANTS IN YAR. ONCE IT GOT A HOLD OF STORY THAT YARG HOLDING TWO AMERICAN JEWS ALLEGED TO BE SPIES FOR ISRAEL, IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR YARG TO RELEASE THEM. FROM WHAT HE HAD HEARD HE WAS INCLINED TO THE VIEW THAT SALTZMAN/ JUNGMAN WERE NOT LIKELY TO BE ACTING ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEHAVED FOOLISHLY AND ILLEGALLY. IF, SAID THE PRESIDENT, YARG INVESTIGATION CONCLUDES THAT THIS IS ALL, SALTZMAN AND JUNGMAN WILL BE HANDED TO AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SANAA FOR IMMEDIATE DEPORTATION. YARG WILL HAVE TO INSIST THAT THEY BE RETURNED DIRECTLY TO THE US TO PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAD RELEASED THEM TO RETURN TO ISRAEL AND DIVULGE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN ILLEGAL VISIT TO ARAB STATE.

4. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF FAULTY SANAA- TAIZ TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION, SUBSTANCE OF STATE 88568 DID NOT CATCH UP WITH ME UNTIL AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, I THINK NO HARM HAS BEEN DONE. I HAVE SINCE RELATED INFORMATION ON SALTZMAN' S PAST HISTORY TO FONMIN NU' MAN. FOREIGN OFFICE IS CONTINUING TO HAVE DIFFICULTY ARRANGING CONSULAR ACCESS DUE SUSPICIONS OF MILITARY SECURITY, BUT WE HOPEFUL FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT BY CONSULAR OFFICER WILL BE CONCLUDED MORNING MAY 12. WE THINK, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT SALTZMAN AND JUNGMAN ARE LIKELY TO SEE ADVANTAGES OF SIGNING STATEMENT AGREEING TO LIMITATION OF PASSPORTS IF THIS IS, AS IT IS, ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THEIR REMAINING INDEFINITELY IN A YEMENI JAIL.
CRAWFORD

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